

REMARKS

The above-identified application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed September 1, 2005. By the present amendment, claims 1-10 have been canceled and claims 11-19 have been added. It is respectfully submitted that the claims pending in the application, namely claims 11-19, are fully supported by the specification, introduce no new matter, and are patentable over the prior art.

In the Office Action, claim 1 was provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 11 of co-pending Application No. 10/729,634. In addition, claims 1-8 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 15-21 of co-pending Application No. 10/729,768. By the present amendment, the Applicant has canceled claims 1-8 without prejudice. It is respectfully requested that the provisional rejection of these claims be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Jakubczak (U.S. Patent No. 4,651,717). By the present amendment, the Applicant has canceled claims 1-7 without prejudice. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn. The Applicant expressly reserves the right to present the canceled claims in one or more continuation applications.

In the Office Action, claims 8-10 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. According to the Office Action, claims 8-10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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Canceled claim 8 has been rewritten as new claim 11 and includes all of the limitations of canceled base claim 1. In addition, canceled claim 9 has been rewritten as new claim 18 and includes all of the limitations of canceled base claim 1. New claims 12-17 depend directly or indirectly from new claim 11, while new claim 19 depends from new claim 18. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that new claims 11-19 are in condition for allowance. By the present amendment, the Applicant has cancelled claims 8-10 and it is respectfully requested that the objection to claims 8-10 be withdrawn.

Pursuant to the Applicant's continuing duty of disclosure, the Applicant is hereby informing the Examiner that the following applications are presently pending before Examiner Thaler in Art Unit 3731 and contain related subject matter to the present application:

U.S. Application Serial No. 10/246,122, filed September 17, 2002;

U.S. Application Serial No. 10/244,319, filed June 16, 2002;

U.S. Application Serial No. 10/662,923, filed September 15, 2003;

U.S. Application Serial No. 10/729,668, filed December 5, 2003;

U.S. Application Serial No. 10/729,634, filed December 5, 2003;

U.S. Application Serial No. 10/729,768, filed December 5, 2003;

U.S. Application Serial No. 10/743,192, filed December 22, 2003; and

U.S. Application Serial No. 10/752,933, filed January 7, 2004.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims presently pending in the application, namely claims 11-19, are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone or personal interview may facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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